

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01570 011844Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 ACDA-07 SP-02 L-03 SS-15
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P 011637Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9170

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 1570

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, SP
SUBJECT: US/SPANISH NUCLEAR COOPERATION -REPROCESSING OF FUEL

REF: MADRID 1210, STATE 33128

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SENT US UNEXPECTEDLY A NOTA
VERBAL DATED FEB. 24 ON SPANISH POSITION REGARDING
REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR FUEL. NOTE, AS INFORMALLY
TRANSLATED BY EMBASSY, READ AS FOLLOWS:

2. "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS IT
COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IN MADRID AND WITH REFERENCE TO THE RECENT
CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE ABMASSADOR OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
INTERNAIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION, HAS THE HONOR
TO REFER TO THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION THAT HAS
EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE FIELD
OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE GOVERNMENT
OF SPAIN RECOGNIZES THAT NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN
NATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A WAY
AS TO AVOID THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN WISHES
TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA THAT IS IS PREPARED TO STUDY WITH THAT
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GOVERNMENT THE ADOPTION OF ADEQUATE PROCEDURES
FOR THE REALIZATION OF SUCH PURPOSES.
IN THIS SENSE AND DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS,
THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN WILL CONSULT AND ARRIVE AT
AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES ON THE INSTALLATIONS IN WHICH IT MAY CARRY
OUT THE REPROCESSING OR ALTERNATION OF IRRADIATED

FUEL ELEMENTS IN NUCLEAR REACTORS SUPPLIED BY THE
UNITED STATES.

WITHIN THIS SIX-MONTH PERIOD, BOTH GOVERNMENTS
WILL NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WHICH, WITH PRECISE
GUARANTEES, WILL NOT ENTAIL AN OBSTACLE FOR SPANISH
ECONOMIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD
OF NUCLEAR ACTIVITES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES,
INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL EXHCANGE OF NUCLEAR
MATERIALS.

THIS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ITSELF OF
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE TO THE EMBASSY
THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

MADRID, FEBRUARY 24, 1977."

2. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR US, AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH
MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
COOPERATION BARROSO TO EXPRESS SURPRIS THAT NOTE HAD
BEEN FORTHCOMING PRIOR TO FURTHER WORD FROM US FOLLOWING
CONVERSATION REPORTED IN MADRID 1163.

3. BARROSO EXPLAINED THAT THE MINISTRY HAD SENT THE
NOTE IN THE BELIEF THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO US AS A
MORE FORMAL EXPRESSION OF SPANISH VIEWS. HE MADE CLEAR,
HOWEVER, THAT GOS WAS OPEN TO FURTHER NEOGTIATION ON
THE SUBJECT, BUT WITHIN THE LIMITS THAT THE SPANISH
COULD NOT AGREE TO AN OPEN-ENDED INTERIM COMMITMENT
REGARDING REPROCESSING WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO A
TIME FRAME FOR THE RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE BILATERAL
AGREEMENT. BARROSO SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT US POLICY
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POSITIONS ON NUCLEAR QUESTIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN RE-
FINED, BUT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR
FUEL REPROCESSING AND THE RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE BI-
LATERAL AGREEMENT COULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE RELATIVELY
NEAR FUTURE.

4. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD BARROSO THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS
THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT WHILE IN
WASHINGTON.EATON

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